concessional rate of interest at 4% per annum.

Allocation of Funds for Widening of National Highway No. 43

4947. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given fresh allotment of funds for widening the National Highway No.43 for the year 1991–92;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the previous allotment has been utilised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). During 1990–91, 8 works relating to widening of NH 43 were in progress in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, and funds to the extent of Rs. 57.00 lakhs were allocated for the same. The allocation could not be utilised fully due to delay in finalisation of contracts, which are now in operation. During the current financial year, an allocation of Rs. 161.50 lakhs exists for the said works on NH 43. No fresh works of widening of NH 43 have been sanctioned during 1991–92 so far.

Shortage of Staff in RRBs

4948. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in Regional Rural Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has greatly affected the working of the RRBs; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient staff in the RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No shortage of staff in Regional Rural Banks in general has been reported to the National Banks of Agriculture & Rural Development.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Liberalisation of Export Refinance Formula by R.B.I.

4949. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has liberalised the export refinance formula and tightened selective credit control with effect from September 4, 1991; and

(b) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export refinance formula was liberalised by Reserve Bank of India to facilitate the flow of credit to the export sector, to ensure that resources are not a constraint to that sector, and,. in general, to give a stimulus to exports. The tightening of selective credit control stipulations is expected to discourage the use of bank credit for speculative purposes. Reserve Bank of India takes the stock of price output situation in the country on an ongoing basis to assess the impact of the changes in policies from time to time.